GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6297
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have failed to achieve its commitment to provide health care facilities for all by 2000;

(b) if so, whether health care infrastructure in rural areas is facing severe resources crunch;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the standard of health care available in India meets the WHO`s minimum standard of health care for developing countries;

(e) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(f) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) Government is committed to the overall objective of its policy of providing comprehensive primary health care services to all. With this commitment in view, Government has established a comprehensive network of primary health care infrastructure facilities in rural areas. Each State Government seeks to achieve better health care for its people through a variety of measures. However, on account of resource constraints, the delivery of health care services in some places is not upto the desired levels especially with regard to supply of drugs, equipment, deployment of doctors and para-medical staff. Etc.

(d)to(e): Various steps are being taken to improve the health care services in the country. Governemnt has been making every effort to augment the resources for the health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting various programmes for control of diseases like Leprosy, TB, Blindness, Malaria and AIDS. Secondary health facilities are also being upgraded in select States with World Bank assistance. During the Tenth Plan, keeping in view the policy prescriptions contained in the National Health Policy 2002, schemes for providing drugs to primary health centres, augmentation of urban health infrastructure and control of water borne diseases are being initiated to further improve the reach and quality of health care services.